



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC6

Site Name: Carroll-Caton House

Prehistoric

Other name(s): Carroll Mansion

Historic

Brief Description:

Late Woodland lithic scatter, early 19th c. brick house with brick hypocaust & cistern, early 20th c. school

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code Ub

Latitude 39.2897

Longitude -76.6014

Physiographic province Eastern Piedmont

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation 3 m

Site slope 0%

Ethnobotany profile available

Maritime site

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Topography

- Floodplain
- Hilltop/bluff
- Interior flat
- Upland flat
- Ridgetop
- Terrace
- Low terrace
- High terrace
- Rockshelter/cave
- Hillslope
- Unknown
- Other

Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Jones Falls

Saltwater

Ocean

Estuary/tidal river

Tidewater/marsh

Minimum distance to water is 61 m

Freshwater

Stream/river

Swamp

Lake or pond

Spring

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

Paleoindian site

Woodland site

Contact period site

ca. 1820 - 1860

Y

Archaic site

MD Adena

ca. 1630 - 1675

ca. 1860 - 1900

Y

Early archaic

Early woodland

ca. 1675 - 1720

ca. 1900 - 1930

Y

Middle archaic

Mid. woodland

ca. 1720 - 1780

Post 1930

Y

Late archaic

Late woodland

ca. 1780 - 1820

Y

Unknown historic context

Unknown prehistoric context

Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

Native American

Asian American

African American

Unknown

Anglo-American

Other

Y

Hispanic

Russian

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

Multi-component

Misc. ceremonial

Village

Rock art

Hamlet

Shell midden

Base camp

STU/lithic scatter

Rockshelter/cave

Quarry/extraction

Earthen mound

Fish weir

Cairn

Production area

Burial area

Unknown

Other context

Historic

Urban/Rural? Urban

Domestic

Homestead

Farmstead

Mansion

Plantation

Row/townhome

Cellar

Privy

Industrial

Mining-related

Quarry-related

Mill

Black/metalsmith

Furnace/forge

Other

Transportation

Canal-related

Road/railroad

Wharf/landing

Maritime-related

Bridge

Ford

Educational

Commercial

Trading post

Store

Tavern/inn

Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

Church/mtg house

Ch support bldg

Burial area

Cemetery

Sepulchre

Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

Post-in-ground

Frame-built

Masonry

Other structure

Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational

Midden/dump

Artifact scatter

Spring or well

Spring or well

Unknown

Unknown

Other context

Other context

brick hypocaust, brick cistern, garden, courtyard

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken N

N

Flotation samples taken N

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken Y

Y

Flotation samples taken Y

Other samples taken

Faunal analysis



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types			
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Koens-Crispin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Levana	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware	Ironstone	129	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneware	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	74	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	136	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	252	Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	899	Pearlware	1306			Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts			
Flaked stone	91	Other fired clay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Lithic Material

Jasper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

19th century hypocaust, cistern, midden deposits

Historic Artifacts			
Pottery (all)	3833	Tobacco related	28
Glass (all)	10101	Activity item(s)	141
Architectural	4876	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	119	Faunal material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	3630
Clothing	182	Floral material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personal items	18	Misc.	3087
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Const feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	hypocaust, cistern,	
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>		

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 2: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 4: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 5: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 6: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 7: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 8: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 9: +/- years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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Brief

Description:

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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at Maryland Historical Society

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

Site 18BC6 consists of the archeological deposits associated with the standing Carroll-Caton House or Carroll Mansion, an early 19th century brick house with a brick hypocaust and cistern, in downtown Baltimore. Deposits related to a Late Woodland lithic scatter and an early 20th century school are also present. The site is located at the intersection of Front and Lombard Streets, south of an area historically known as Jones Town or Old Town. The historical panorama includes the Shot Tower and Saint Vincent Church to the north, and Claggett's Brewery (see synopsis for 18BC38) and the Inner Harbor, to the south. Most of the area surrounding the site is heavily developed today. Soils mapped for the area are classified as "Urban Land" meaning that 80% of the surface is covered either by buildings or by impervious surfaces such as asphalt or concrete.

The standing Carroll-Caton House is currently listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Places (MIHP# B-2). The mansion is a 3½ storey late Federal style building which served as the urban dwelling of Charles Carroll of Carrollton who resided there with his daughter Mary and her husband Richard Caton from 1823 until his death in 1832. At the time of his death, Charles Carroll was considered one of the wealthiest men in America. Carroll was instrumental in the development of early Baltimore through his investment in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and other enterprises. He is credited with being the sole Catholic member of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was also the last surviving member.

The site was originally part of the land south of Jones Town known as Philpot's Addition. Originally acquired as Philpot's Point by Brian Philpot in 1763, the addition consisted of 35 acres along the Jones Falls south of Plowman Street. A 1773 map shows the area as Lot 198. At this time Front Street did not extend south of Plowman, and Lombard Street was known as King George Street. The block was bound by the Jones Falls to the west, Albemarle Street to the east, King George Street to the south and an unimproved marsh to the north. Philpot and others were responsible for filling in this marsh and others within Philpot's Addition by the early 19th century.

The lots fronting on King George Street were sold in 1792 to Thomas Coulson and then to Richard Caton and Richard Lawson in the same year. Between 1792 and 1796, Caton is credited with building 4, three storey brick houses with three storey brick backbuildings among these lots. However, Richard Lawson is recorded as the owner and resident of the Carroll-Caton House property in 1802. Upon Lawson's death in 1803, the property was held in trust by Samuel Moale and the house was unoccupied. Moale was appointed to sell all of Lawson's properties at public sale. The property was sold to Edward Johnson in 1804. In 1808 Edward Johnson sold the property to Samuel Harris to be held in trust for Henry Wilson and his wife. The 1810 census lists Henry Wilson and his family as the occupants of the house. By 1813, tax assessments indicate John McFadon as a tenant on property owned by Henry Wilson.

Between 1813 and 1818 the house was owned and occupied by a French merchant, Christopher Deshon. Little is known of Deshon or the house at this time. In 1818, Richard Caton purchased the property, his role in the affairs of the Baltimore home was largely overshadowed by Carroll, an internationally known figure. Furthermore, Carroll assumed the unpaid balance on the home in 1823, and held the property in trust for his daughter Mary when Richard Caton failed to maintain payment on the property.

Both the Caton and Carroll families concurrently maintained large estates outside of the city. Charles Carroll resided at his estate, Doughregan Manor, in Howard County. Personal correspondence between Carroll and his children shows that, before his "retirement" at the Baltimore residence, he actively maintained and directed operations at Doughregan while making visits to Brooklandwood, Homewood, and Annapolis. While in residence in Baltimore, Carroll would have provisions sent to him from Doughregan which consisted of everything from meat, vegetables, and ingredients for cake baking, to hay and oats for his horses. The Catons held title to Brooklandwood in the Greenspring Valley, presently the location of St. Paul's School. Carroll's son, Charles Jr., also maintained an estate known as Homewood, the present location of Johns Hopkins University. The Baltimore residence was considered a townhouse. The concurrent maintenance of rural estates and townhomes was not uncommon for elite persons according to customs of the time.

The Carroll-Caton House property was assessed the highest in the ward between 1813 and 1823, and historical records indicate that an estate was maintained befitting one of the wealthiest families in America at the time. There are lengthy inventories of slaves, servants, silver, libraries of books, and cellars of wine recorded for the Baltimore home.

Another aspect of displaying wealth in the period was the maintenance of a formal garden. Correspondence between Charles Carroll and his son at Homewood indicates that gardening and landscaping the estates were priorities. The letters refer to an exchange between Doughregan and Homewood of lemons, peaches, grapes, and pears. The reference to lemons is of particular interest as citrus fruit cultivation was ill-suited to the Maryland climate. Careful cultivation in greenhouses or orangeries was possible, however, and these were known at the time at other estates throughout the state. No sources, however, directly mention a greenhouse or orangery on any of the Carroll family estates. Charles Carroll is known to have played a direct role in the planning of the formal gardens at his home in Annapolis (see synopsis for 18AP45). Carroll may have been instrumental in the design of his daughter's estate garden as well.

The historical documentation that exists, suggests that during the Carroll-Caton era, the rear yard contained a formal garden and service area. In all likelihood, the immediate rear yard was carefully landscaped with shrubs, vines, roses, and fruit trees. A kitchen garden may have been cultivated in a distinct plot or incorporated into an ornamental landscape. Cobblestone paths led (at least) to a covered well/cistern. A service area consisting of a two-storey brick stable/carriage house and probable privy were located beyond the formal garden and bordered on an alley. Since the stable/carriage house was within view of the mansion it is probable that its design shared some architectural features of the mansion.

In 1845 and 1846, respectively, Richard and Mary Caton dies, and the house was inherited by Mary Caton's daughter, Emily MacTavish. Land records indicate that a lawsuit ensued which was not settled until 1855. There are no indications that the house was occupied by any of the Caton daughters, most of whom lived overseas. After Emily MacTavish inherited the property, she donated a 50 ft by 100 ft plot of the Sisters of Mercy religious order. The Sisters did not reside at the house, but instead leased the property to George Wetter who operated a tavern in the mansion. A haberdashery was operated in the backbuilding, located on a separate 50 ft by 85 ft lot, according to tax assessments for 1858.

An 1851 map of Baltimore shows an L-shaped configuration of the house suggesting an addition to the rear of the Mansion by this time. Interestingly, the house was not occupied at that time. The addition could have been built during the Carroll-Caton era. It is not shown on an 1876 map which otherwise shows the rear stable, but the addition reappears on an 1880 Sanborn Map.



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Unknown

In 1865, Emily MacTavish bequeathed an adjoining 50 ft by 91.5 ft lot to the Sisters of Mercy. This transaction essentially restored the lot to its original size. The Sisters continued to rent the property and outbuilding. From 1865 until 1880, Charles Kaiser leased the mansion and William Appel and Adolph Webber were recorded as the backbuilding tenants. Kaiser operated a tavern and was issued a license in 1862 to "set up and use one bagatelle table" at his business (a billiards-like indoor table game). The 1870 census listed Charles Kaiser Beer Saloon and four families occupying the mansion.

In 1871, Jacob Seeger purchased the property, but continued to rent it to Charles Kaiser. Seeger operated his own brewery in Baltimore between 1854 and 1886.

By 1880, the house was divided between small businesses and tenement housing, an arrangement that would continue for 30 years. In 1880, census records listed Henry Fisher, four families, and several boarders. Fisher operated a liquor store out of the ground floor of the mansion. An 1880 Sanborn map shows a two-storey addition attached to the rear of the mansion and an additional backbuilding on the northeast side of the yard. The map also shows a one storey octagonal frame structure attached to the western edge of the addition.

Between 1880 and 1914, the Mansion served as tenement housing and as a base of operations for a series of sweatshops that operated on the ground-floor. The overall Old Town neighborhood had become the locus of immigrants from Russia, Italy, and Germany. The 1900 census indicates that the Neinstadt, Levy, and Sheer families, all of whom were Russian immigrant tailors, resided in the mansion. The neighborhood, in general, was occupied by Russian Jews engaged in the garment industry. Louis Marcus, whose cloak business operated out of the mansion ground floor in 1901, eventually became one of America's largest makers of ladies' suits and coats. A newspaper article in the Baltimore Sun dated August 31, 1913 reported that Louis B. Marsh, then operating a sweatshop in the mansion, was fined \$10.00 for illegally employing minors: two girls under the age of 12 and a 15 year old boy.

Sometime between 1880 and 1902, as indicated by a 1902 Sanborn map, the backbuilding on the northeast side of the rear yard was removed. The far rear yard is shown as a coal yard where a series of frame buildings were erected. These structures were also shown in a turn-of-the-century photograph. According to an 1874 rendition of the property, a brick wall is shown along Front Street. The 1902 Sanborn Map shows a property division between the coal yard and the mansion which is not reflected in the land records. The line may indicate a wall.

In 1914, the City acquired the property. Sometime between 1902 and 1914, all of the backbuildings were razed according to a 1914 Sanborn Map. Although the Sanborn Map continues to show the mansion addition, turn-of-the-century photographs show that it had already been removed. The next few years were spent in discussion over what to do with the property and whether or not it should simply be torn down. Ultimately, the city determined to renovate the house for use as some form of school.

A vocational school, School 290, officially opened up at the site on Maryland Day, Tuesday, March 25th, 1919. The mansion interior was used for classrooms. In the rear yard, a series of one storey brick garages were erected for machine shops. These encompassed the entire rear yard and later became known as "the annex". The school prospered for 11 years and eventually outgrew its accommodations at Lombard and Front streets and was moved to a Howard Street location.

Between 1930 and 1940 the Carroll Mansion Association used the house and grounds for a recreation center. Further renovations on the property were undertaken by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1937. At that time, the entire rear yard and its buildings were enclosed by a brick and frame structure with skylights as shown on a 1948 Sanborn Map. The Recreation Center under management of the Department of Public Recreation, became known as the Carroll Mansion Recreation Center and, locally as "Fisher's". The interior floor of the annex was paved with cement and included a basketball court 15 by 30 feet, a woodcraft room, an auditorium, and game room.

Between 1956 and 1965 the Recreation Center was closed and the mansion remained vacant. With the support of Mayor McKeldin, it was decided that the mansion and grounds would be renovated for use as a historic museum. Between 1966 and 1967 the entire rear yard of the mansion was graded and re-landscaped. The structures remaining from the Recreation Center were demolished. The area was graded to an even surface and builder's sand and topsoil were added. The far rear yard was built up to create a garden terrace. Ornamental trees were sunk into buried tree-wells. A sunken fountain, two brick outbuildings, and a utilities shed were constructed. The courtyard was partially cemented and paved with brick. A brick courtyard wall was constructed around the perimeters of the property. According to architectural plans, the north and east walls were to be constructed with salvaged brick. It was implied that the north and east walls partially existed and were to be re-constructed. It is possible that remnant walls of the Carroll Recreation Center were salvaged, but this was not clear from architectural plans. In 1986, a kiosk was added to the Front Street entrance and a wheelchair ramp was constructed on the southeast corner of the courtyard. The kiosk was re-located to the parking lot in 1992.

The earliest documented archeological work to be conducted at the Carroll-Caton House occurred over the winter of 1966-1967. At that time a brief archeological excavation was conducted in the rear yard of the mansion by the Central Chapter of the Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM). Excavation was carried out in three excavation trenches of unidentified dimensions. The ASM identified a brick cistern and cobblestone garden paths on the backyard patio, approximately 4.3 m (14 ft) north of the Mansion and less than 61 cm (2 ft) below the ground surface. In addition, blue shell-edged pearlware, brown stoneware, and olive green bottle glass were found in a coal/ash deposit associated with the cistern. A total of 438 artifacts were recovered during the 1966-1967 excavations. The excavation demonstrated the presence of well-preserved, buried cultural resources associated with the Carroll-Caton era.

The next stage of work at the site occurred in 1988 and 1989. At that time the Baltimore Center for Urban Archaeology (BCUA) conducted a Phase I intensive survey at the site due to the impending construction of the new Baltimore City Life Museums' (BCLM) City Life Gallery. A courtyard area and parking lot (for the museum), which at that time were situated in the former back garden area of the Carroll-Caton House (18BC6) would be impacted. The work was required due to easements held by the Maryland Historical Trust on the property.

The 1988-1989 project included two separate testing programs, 1) the hand excavation of 1.524 m (5 ft) square excavation units in the northern portion of the Baltimore City Life Museums' courtyard itself and 2) the use of heavy equipment to excavate approximately 3.05 m (10 ft) wide trenches in the parking area north of the courtyard. The hand excavated units fell along the northern edge of Site 18BC6 (as currently defined), while the machine excavated trenches fell outside the site (this area was assigned site number 18BC68).

A series of six excavation units was proposed as an adequate sample for assessing garden features, soil strata, and to date a brick garden enclosure. The hand excavation portion of the project was initiated, however, the complexity of the archeological stratigraphy uncovered and the remarkable depth of the



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required excavation, only allowed for the completion of 2 units in the limited time schedule for this initial phase of testing. Most excavated soils were screened through hardware cloth and artifacts were systematically collected for analysis. The only exceptions to this rule were obvious fill layers. Representative samples were collected from fills without screening. Soil strata were also sampled for subsequent flotation, soil chemistry, and phytolith analysis.

The two excavation units along the north wall of the garden courtyard indicated that the area had undergone a number of recent fill episodes related to the establishment of planting beds during the development of the Baltimore City Life Museums' Courtyard. These modern layers sealed depositional surfaces which appear to be related to two construction episodes of the enclosure wall. Approximately 1900, a repair trench was dug down through the yard in order to allow for the pouring of a stabilizing cement sill. The repair trench penetrated and partially disturbed an earlier yard surface and builder's trench related to the original installation of the wall in the early 19th century.

The artifacts contained in this first builder's trench and a shell/trash midden on the associated surface would seem to verify the existence of the yard surface and an initial wall construction during the Carroll-Caton development of the mansion's gardens (ca. 1818-1845). Deep stratigraphy from these units further indicated that this early 19th century yard surface was the result of the deposition of extensive fill materials containing 18th century and prehistoric artifacts (not clearly related to the site).

A total of 2,026 artifacts were recovered from 18BC6 during the 1988-1989 excavations. Artifacts included 27 activity items, 527 architectural artifacts, 2 clothing items, 1,001 kitchen-related artifacts (including pottery and container glass), 2 tobacco-related artifacts, 404 miscellaneous historic objects, and 63 prehistoric artifacts.

Researchers ultimately concluded that two 1.524 m (5 ft) test squares did not permit sufficient space to assess fully the builder's trenches for the garden walls. It was recommended that further testing be carried out along the north and east walls to better assess their age.

Phase II testing was carried out at the Carroll-Caton House between October and December of 1993. The work was carried out to identify and evaluate buried cultural resources within the area impinged upon by the proposed construction of the Morton K. Blaustein Exhibition Center for the Baltimore City Life Museum (BCLM) and associated re-landscaping. The work was conducted in compliance with Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) easement regulations on the property. The easement specifies that any changes or alterations to the property must be reviewed and approved by MHT. State preservation regulations (Article 83 B, Section 5-617 of the Annotated Code of Maryland) also applied to the planned development as state bond money partially funded the project.

Fieldwork began with the establishment of a grid of 3.05 m (10 ft) squares across the site, creating a total of 65 squares. Fourteen shovel test pits (STPs) and twenty-one 1.524 m (5 ft) square test units were excavated. STPs were 76.2 cm (2.5 ft) square and were excavated to a depth of 91.4 cm (3 ft) or to culturally sterile subsoil. Excavation units were placed systematically at the location of features according to STP results and/or according to historic map references. Thirty-two percent coverage of the site was achieved. Soils were excavated manually by stratigraphic layer and screened through hardware cloth. Soil colors and textures were recorded for each soil level, and soil profiles were drawn for each test pit and excavation unit. All features were drawn, photographed, and mapped into the site plan. Artifacts were collected from each stratum, labeled with the appropriate provenience and placed in bags. Oyster shell, brick fragments, slag, and coal were weighed in the field and discarded on site. Whole bricks were counted, measured, and stacked on site.

At the close of the project, all structural features were covered with clean builder's sand to a recommended depth of 61 cm (2 ft) above the feature and 98 % compaction. Features and all excavation units were back-filled and tamped manually. The exposed soil was then mulched and landscaped.

The manual excavation of 14 STPs resulted in the identification of buried architectural remains, a kitchen refuse midden, and underground utilities. These STP results also indicated the depth at which cultural resources of various historical periods could be expected, as well as the degree of preservation. In all but 1 STP, the uppermost three levels were clearly related to the 1967 courtyard renovations. Chunks of red-painted concrete recovered in Level 3 throughout the site were indicative of the remnant Vocational School and Recreation Center's floors. The floors, as well as an earlier ground surface below them, were likely destroyed when the courtyard was mechanically graded in 1967.

The excavation of formal test units in the north courtyard area of the site demonstrated the presence of a semi-subterranean brick structure. The interior of this structure was used as a domestic trash pit during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Over 5,000 bottle glass fragments or 70% of all bottle glass recovered from the site during the 1993 excavations, were recovered from the vicinity of this structure. Mortar remnants observed on the floor of the structure indicate that the interior may have been sealed at one time. The position of the pit below ground, as well as the amount of bottle glass recovered from the interior, suggests that it could have functioned equally as an ice house, as cold storage (root cellar), or as a dairy. Interestingly, the location and dimensions of the structure indicate other functions as well. For example, a similar structure excavated at the Federal Reserve Bank site in Baltimore (see synopsis for 18BC27) was interpreted to be a mid 19th century privy pit. The structure is also similar to manure pits characteristic of 19th century Baltimore stables. A stone construction of similar dimensions, used as a late 18th century trash pit, was also excavated west of the Jones Falls. In any case, in accordance with City Ordinances for the early 19th century, the pit should have been cleaned annually. According to artifacts associated with a builder's trench and recovered below the feature floor (including an early ironstone sherd), the earliest the pit could have been constructed was between 1813 and 1840. Thus, the original intent of the structure, constructed during the Carroll-Caton residency, may have been to service a stable and could have later been re-used as a privy (or visa-versa) and, subsequently, a trash pit.

The north courtyard wall construction sequence was less discernible. Artifacts associated with the base cement ledge consisted of a mixture of early 19th century ceramics and late 19th century and early 20th century bottle glass. Temporally diagnostic ceramics were not recovered from contexts below the ledge. Thus, a middle to late 19th century construction date was postulated. The presence of a mixed artifact assemblage may be evidence of late 19th century repairs to an earlier construction.

Excavation in units just slightly to the south and to the east of the semi-subterranean brick structure revealed a complex sequence of activities and infrastructure. The principal feature identified was a brick construction interpreted to be an underground heating system or hypocaust. A hypocaust was a heating system which operated mainly below the floors of a building, and operated on the principal that hot air rises. A fire was begun with wood or coal in a location below ground, which usually consisted of a hearth or furnace. Hot air was circulated through horizontal ducts located under the floors of the structure and often up the side walls of the structure through vertical ducts. Smoke escaped through a central flue and/or through a chimney which was a component of the hearth. The floor of the structure was separated from the hypocaust ducts by empty space. The ducts were wholly or partially covered by brick or stone. The system required a steady supply of fuel, but ideally, was a low fuel consumer. Once the system was operating, the duct materials (brick or stone) would retain heat and a blazing fire was unnecessary.



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18BC6

Site Name: Carroll-Caton House

Prehistoric

Other name(s) Carroll Mansion

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

Late Woodland lithic scatter, early 19th c. brick house with brick hypocaust & cistern, early 20th c. school

Hypocausts are a technology associated with persons of high status in the Chesapeake region during the 18th century. Normally, they heated greenhouses or orangeries where tropical fruits and rare plants were cultivated. For plant cultivation, the even circulation of heat from a hypocaust was preferable to the extreme heat and draft from coal stoves.

The structural remains of the hypocaust observed at 18BC6 consisted of a proposed hearth or chimney, a central flue or vertical wall duct, a horizontal duct, and a second horizontal duct connected to an outer wall. The horizontal extent of the feature encompassed 4.57 by 5.5 meters (15 by 18 ft). The proposed hearth was brick lined and resembled the base of a cross-shaped chimney. It adjoined a network of brick-lined ducts, approximately 46 cm (1.5 ft) in width and 3.7 m (12 ft) in length. The ducts were connected to a central flue at the base of the proposed hearth. The hypocaust was bordered on its east side by a duct which abutted a side wall.

The structure interior contained burned material, which included cinder, ash, and coal, as well as chunks of steatite. The steatite may have been used as a heat insulator between the system and the floors of the structure. Alternatively, it may have served as a duct cover or flooring in parts of the system. Bricks utilized in construction of the system appeared to be highly oxidized (bright orange), a characteristic of bricks that have experienced continued heating. Duct materials from other known hypocausts were also constructed of stone.

The brick structure rested on a ground surface of clay soils. These soils are recognized as imported fill, as they contained both early 19th century materials, as well as prehistoric artifacts. Other known systems were also characterized by clay ground surfaces. However, those surfaces were often reddish-brown, compact, and brittle from exposure to heat. The surface on which the brick structure rested, however, was moist, by comparison. This could indicate a short span of use or an unsuccessful or inefficient system.

The northern extension of the hypocaust ducts was virtually truncated by the present enclosing north wall of the garden/courtyard. This suggests that two of the ducts may have connected north of the existing wall. Because it is clear that the hypocaust is an early 19th century construction, this indicates that the existing courtyard wall was constructed sometime after the Carroll-Caton residency (post-1845). It also suggests that the foundation of the brick building shown on historic maps in this location was probably situated just to the north of the existing north courtyard wall. Since the brick structure can confidently be assigned to this location until 1914, this places the construction date of the courtyard wall at sometime after 1914. Until 1914, the western and eastern perimeters could have been partially walled, and/or landscaped with shrubs to achieve privacy or other desired effects.

A refuse deposit concentrated on the exterior of the proposed hypocaust hearth, was also identified in this portion of the courtyard. The extent of this deposit was not fully assessed. The refuse may correspond to domestic use of the stable/carriage house relative to a coachman or slaves' quarters.

Prehistoric activity was also identified in fill soils in the north courtyard area. According to historic maps and references, this portion of the courtyard corresponds to a marsh which was filled in by 1792. The projectile point and flakes recovered may indicate prehistoric settlement in the marsh vicinity that was destroyed during the in-filling activities. Late 18th century ceramics and other artifacts identified in these same soils correspond to the time when the marsh was filled.

A unit was placed arbitrarily in the north-central courtyard area in the area of the Carroll-Caton era orchards and garden. No features were identified in the unit. Only 128 artifacts were recovered, a low number in comparison with other excavation units. These findings were significant because two ground surfaces are suggested by the data. Although there were no late 19th century artifacts associated with Level 3, it is unlikely that the surface "escaped" late 19th and early 20th century activities. An upper surface was probably destroyed during removal of the recreation center flooring during the 1967 renovations. Level 4, which antedates slightly Level 3, may also be an original yard surface. Its shallow depth suggested that it was either built-up by the early 19th century or incorporated into Level 3, through gardening or moving earth. A flotation sample of Level 4 produced no biological remains.

Another unit in the central portion of the courtyard was placed along the existing east courtyard wall to further delineate a brick wall identified in one of the STPs. The unit revealed intact portions of a Vocational School garage floor. The brick wall was interpreted as a being a partition or inner wall for the recreation center. The east courtyard wall was shown to terminate at the concrete flooring, thus indicating construction circa 1919. The wall appears to have existed at the time the partition was added, as it extends beyond the partition. Two 1967 photographs are informative. Both show building shadows along the east courtyard wall at the time when it was remodeled. Although excavation was hindered by modern utility pipes, there was some indication that a preserved, late 19th century surface was present below the flooring.

Units in the south courtyard area demonstrated the presence of an intact kitchen refuse deposit associated with yard activity pertaining to the early 19th century. The refuse was shallow, which was likely the result of 1967 courtyard renovations as demonstrated in Levels 1-3, which overlay the feature and probably truncated Level 4. There was no evidence of a pit or architectural materials that would suggest the refuse was covered. Most likely, the refuse represents compost for a kitchen or an ornamental garden.

Other excavation units in the south courtyard area demonstrated the presence of a well/cistern, remnants of the Vocational School garage, additional kitchen refuse deposits, and an early 19th century soil layer (Level 4) with midden-like qualities. The well-like feature was most likely a cistern based on its size, shape, and proximity to the house. It would have been ideally situated to collect rainwater from the roof of the structure and "soft" rainwater was thought to be preferable to well water for domestic uses, especially cleaning and laundering. The Vocational School's garage floor was constructed directly over the cistern, circa 1919. There were indications that the destruction of any structural remains of a cistern cover, outer pump, or outer structure occurred even earlier. A coal deposit mixed with kitchen refuse associated with the early 19th century indicated some type of domestic activity around the cistern. This deposit layer over Level 4, a soil layer with midden-like qualities and found elsewhere at the site (see above). A sheet midden is suggested, but it is unlikely that the refuse was exposed. A likelier scenario is a garden compost spread out and buried under pathways, grass, vines, and other vegetation. The placement of shell and other refuse often preceded the construction of cobblestone paths and served as a drainage buffer between the path and the soil below.

A total of 22,537 artifacts were collected from the site during the 1993 project at the Carroll-Caton House. The assemblage consisted of 114 activity-related artifacts, 4,349 architectural artifacts, 180 clothing items, 119 furniture objects, 15,020 kitchen-related artifacts, 18 personal items, 26 tobacco-related artifacts, 2,683 miscellaneous historic objects, and 28 prehistoric artifacts. The activity items were 7 marbles, a doll part, an ink well, 15 clay pigeon fragments, 2 harness parts, 2 metal rings, 3 slate pencils, and 83 miscellaneous activity items. The architectural assemblage consisted of 693 pieces of brick, 21 brick tiles, 291 pieces of slate, 299 mortar fragments, 7 pieces of plaster, 27 concrete fragments, 1,543 pieces of window glass, 51 pieces of tar paper, 32 pieces of lumber, 4 marble fragments, 1,296 nails, and 85 miscellaneous architectural artifacts. Clothing items were 15

MARYLAND
HISTORICAL



TRUST

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